



# Accessing Genetic Testing and Counseling

Genetic counselors and clinical geneticists are experts in genetic testing and evaluation. A primary care doctor, cardiologist, or surgeon may not have the most current information regarding genetic aortic conditions. Consulting with a certified genetic counselor or geneticist is recommended in coordination with genetic testing. These specialists can help you understand the risks and benefits, as well as the possible outcomes.

[View our webinar](#) focused on genetic testing and aortic disease to learn more.

## IN-PERSON:

- You may obtain a referral from a primary care provider or other clinician. We recommend seeing a genetics specialist who has experience in cardiovascular or aortopathy genetics.
- The [National Society of Genetic Counselors](#) provides a searchable national directory. Tip: select “Cardiac-Aortic Aneurysm” for specialty.
- A [comprehensive clinic directory](#) is provided by The Marfan Foundation. These clinics specialize in genetic aortic conditions and are not limited to Marfan syndrome. Clinics will typically include specialists in genetics, cardiology (heart), ophthalmology (eyes), and orthopedics (bones and joints).
- As with all medical providers, research your genetics provider in advance. If you are not satisfied with the care or recommendations your practitioner provides, seek a second opinion.

## TELEHEALTH:

- [Genome Medical](#) is a virtual genetics service provider. They are in-network with many [insurance plans](#) and offer a self-pay option.
- The clinical laboratory [Invitae](#) offers clinical (fee-for-service) genetic testing through telehealth including virtual genetic counseling service. Invitae accepts insurance for US based customers, offers payment plans, as well as providing a patient assistance program. Depending on income-based eligibility requirements, the cost of testing may be partially discounted or entirely waived.
- Please note: Commercial direct-to-consumer “ancestry” DNA testing and research study participation are not substitutes for clinical genetic testing and counseling.